



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

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Former Security Guard for National Gallery of Art Found Guilty of Second Degree Murder in Shooting Death of Her Husband

Washington, D.C. - Late yesterday afternoon, a Superior Court jury found Mozella Jones, 44, of Southeast Washington, D.C., guilty of second degree murder while armed and related weapons offenses in connection with the shooting death of her husband, Kerry Jackson, on February 1, 2009, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced today. Jones claimed she shot Jackson in self-defense, which the jury rejected. Jones is scheduled to be sentenced by the Honorable Gregory Jackson on May 21, 2010.

At trial, the United States established that on February 1, 2009, Jones and Kerry Jackson were living in a townhouse at 1505 Tubman Road, SE. Jones was employed as a security guard at the National Gallery of Art, and she worked a night job for Admiral Security. At about 2:50 a.m., Jones was at her night job when her next door neighbor called to report that Jones' 5-year old grandson had wandered out of the house and come to the neighbors' house. The neighbors said that the boy could spend the night with them, but Jones insisted on coming home.

Meanwhile, the boy had activated Jones' security alarm when he left the house, which brought the police to the scene. The police went to the scene, and found the house empty. One of the neighbors brought a telephone to one of the police officers, who spoke with the defendant. The officer testified that the defendant sounded angry. After the neighbor went back inside, a man approached the officers and identified himself as Kerry Jackson. After he went in the house, one of the officers left and one remained on the scene.

The neighbors heard Mr. Jackson in the house and telephoned him to tell him about the boy. Mr. Jackson went to pick up the boy, and complained to the neighbors that Jones had called him on his cell phone and chewed him out about the boy. In a tired voice, Mr. Jackson told the neighbors that if Jones confronted him, he would leave. He then took the boy home, leaving out of the back door of the neighbors' townhouse.

As Mr. Jackson was picking up the boy at the neighbors, the police officer who had remained outside 1505 saw a car speed down Tubman Road, then slow down as it approached

the officer's cruiser. The car then turned the corner and headed for the parking lot in the rear of 1505. This occurred as Mr. Jackson was leaving with the boy. The neighbors testified that they saw the defendant race into the parking lot, quickly get out of the car and slam the door in a rage. One of the neighbors heard the defendant begin berating Mr. Jackson as they went into the townhouse. The neighbors heard nothing more until they heard a "boom-boom" 20 or 30 minutes later.

At about 3:40 a.m., the defendant called 911 to tell police that there had been a shooting in her house. The 911 call was played for the jury. Significantly, the defendant was asked by the operator who shot the victim – she admitted that she did so, followed by a long period of silence. The defendant said nothing to the operator about the circumstances of the shooting. The police arrived shortly thereafter and found Kerry Jackson lying in a pool of blood on the third floor. He had no weapons with him and the town house was not disturbed in any way. In fact, it was remarkably neat and orderly. Police found no evidence of any struggle. The police found a revolver under a pillow on the second floor.

The autopsy of the decedent revealed a single gunshot wound to the chest. It also revealed cut and stab wound on the neck and right arm. The medical examiner testified that the cut and stab wounds were inflicted at about the same time that the gun shot wound was inflicted.

The police conducted a thorough investigation. The detectives and evidence technicians testified that the police executed five separate search warrants in the case. Among the items of evidence seized were the gun; ammunition; a portion of the third floor wall, which was analyzed for blood dispersion; computers, which were analyzed for possible video surveillance; personal letters from defendant's locker at work; and a note written by defendant in which she listed the "positives" and "negatives" of Mr. Jackson.

The jury deliberated less than five hours before reaching its verdict convicting defendant on all counts.

In announcing yesterday's verdict, U.S. Attorney Machen gave special commendation to the MPD investigative team that worked this case, particularly, lead Detective Jim Broadbent, assisting Detective Al Batton, lead Evidence Technician John Holder and assisting Technicians James Holder, Jay Gregory and George Klein, who did a superlative job investigating this matter. U.S. Attorney Machen also praised Patrol Officers Thomas Barksdale and David Lack, who responded to the burglar alarm (Barksdale was the officer who remained on the scene) and Barksdale, Lack and Officer Cynthia Moton, who responded to the shooting and secured the crime scene. U.S. Attorney Machen praised Victim Advocate Marci Rinker for her outstanding job making witnesses and family members comfortable with the process. U.S. Attorney Machen praised Legal Assistant Debra Joyner, who provided critical support work. U.S. Attorney Machen praised members of the litigation support unit, who prepared more than 50 photographic exhibits. Finally, U.S. Attorney Machen praised Assistant U.S. Attorney Steven B. Snyder, who investigated and tried this matter.

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